

MEMOIRS

OF

Venutius and Cartismandua:

Extracted from the most Authentick Accounts, and Explaining the *Historical* Parts of the TRAGEDY, call'd,

Venutius, Prince of the Britons
The BRITON,

Written by Mr. AMB. PHILLIPS,

Author of the *Distress'd Mother*.

Britons, attend! Be Worthy like His approv'd;
And shew You have the Virtue so be mov'd.

Pope

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MEMOIRS

OF

Newton and Cartwright:

Extracted from the most Authentic Accounts, and Explaining the Principles of the Trade, &c. &c.

THE BRITON

Written by Mr. A. M. Phillips:

Author of the *Political* &c.

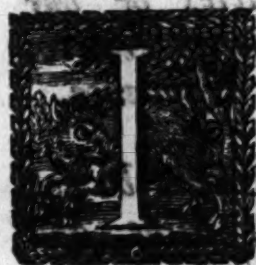
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PREFACE



I *THINK* there needs no Apology for this little Tract, any more than there does an Account for what Reasons it was written. I perceiv'd the Expectations of the Town were kindled justly in Favour of Mr. PHILLIPS's Play: And as they were convinc'd of his Skill and Power, from the Specimen he gave them in his Distrest Mother; it is no Wonder if they are now impatient to see with what Sentiments and Virtues he has cloath'd his BRITON.

BUT as the Story of his Scene is distant from Us in Time Seventeen Hundred Years backward, and many are totally unacquainted with, or have forgot, the History of their Country, and State of its Affairs, at that Period: I thought it might be no Prejudice to the Play, and some Assistance to the Pleasure of the Spectators,
if

P R E F A C E.

if I drew up a short Account of the Times and Persons, as far as the Fable of this Tragedy is concern'd: the Knowledge of which may relieve the Attention of an Audience, to whom many Circumstances might else be dark, and many Beauties lost, in Point of History and Description, dependant on those Antiquities of our Island, which we may be Strangers to, tho' not willing to confess our Ignorance.

IF therefore Mr. PHILLIPS be not displeas'd at this Attempt of Mine, and those Numbers of People of Pleasure, who will crowd to see this Gentleman's Performance, find the Advantage, which I design'd them, in perusing these Sheets, I shall not then repent of the Labour they cost me, and all the Praise, that I expected from them, is fully answered.

M E.



THE Describers of Countries, as *Plutarch* observes, have always Vacancies in the Skirts of their Maps; where Places really lie that have escap'd their Knowledge, and of which they can give no tolerable Account: They therefore put you off with the frightful Notion of dry and desert Sands, unpassable Bogs, *Scythian* Cold, or frozen Seas: And the Case is the very same with the Decyphers of distant *Nations*, as it is with those of distant *Countries*. The Extremities of History are generally sunk in *Fable* and *Fairy-Land*; and the Author that will

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venture to describe them, must wade through monstrous *Obscurity*, and, what is equally bad, be oblig'd to combat monstrous *Traditions*, and *Absurdities* of the Times.

BUT the Memory of many Great and Worthy Actions must be lost to the World, if we will not sometimes make Use of the *Glimmerings* of Antiquity; and fancy that we see more, than the uncertain Light of uncertain History can, indeed, help us to do. Here then the Poet's Office begins, here the Divine Fire, which all the Sons of *Apollo* pretend to, is to shoot into the Gloom of Old Time; and bring forth to Light *Virtues* and *Heroes*, that have been condemn'd to sleep in *Obscurity*, from the Indolence, or Ignorance, of our droning Fore-fathers.

IN this Task, as great is the Labour, so where the Performance is good, the Applause will always be found to rise in Proportion. To deliver my own Opinion freely, the Poet makes a happy Judgment, who takes that for his Field of Action, in which the Heroes of his own Country are concern'd. *BRITONS*, however degenerate at this day, have still something of the *Briton* in their Souls; we love to hear of the Achievements of our distant and untrac'd Ancestors, and with as much Pleasure condole the Want of their *Virtues*, as we are often observ'd to talk of a fine Estate that has sometime been in the Family, tho' lost out of it for a Number of Generations. If I am not mistaken in judging this Point, Mr. *PHILLIPS* has shewn Art in the Choice of his Story, and all his *BRITON's Sentiments* must

of Consequence, have their Weight with a British Audience.

The Province which I have assigned to my self in this small Compass, is, to give the Readers a Survey of our Country, as it stood at the Time, when *Venus* reign'd over a Part of Us, the Injuries of Whom from a disloyal Wife, and his Revenge on her, make the Fable of Mr. Phillips's *Barron*.

THIS well known, *Britain* was govern'd by her own Kings, and never submitted to Tribute, or a Conqueror, till *Julius Caesar* having overrun and subdued all *Gaul*, upon a Pretence that the *Britons* shelter'd and abetted his Foes of that Country, resolv'd upon an Expedition hither.

BUT so many were the Disadvantages of the *Romans* from their Unacquaintance with our Shores and Climate, from the frequent Distresses of their Vessels in embarking hither, and from the odd and unusual Manner of Fighting, with which they were received by the *Britons*, that *Caesar* may be said rather to have discovered, than conquer'd, this Island.

BUT as I have mentioned the Manner of their Fighting, and as the Poet too may, perhaps, have hinted at it in his *Play*, I must digress into a short Description of it.

IT has been a great Argument of the *Grecians* Footing of old in these Islands, that the *Britains* were so expert at Fighting in Chariots (after the Manner as is described in the *Trojan War*)

War) long before they became known to the *Roman Territories*. The Waggon and Chariots, they thus fought in, were exceedingly well harness'd and arm'd; for at both Ends of the Axletrees they fasten'd Hooks and Scythes, so that driving furiously into the Enemies Battle, they made whole Lanes of slaughter'd Men: the Scythes cutting them off in the Middle who did not give speedy Way; and such, as escaped the Scythes, were caught up with the Hooks, which were placed for that Purpose so, that, hanging upon them, they were miserable Spectacles; and, suffering intolerable Pains and Torments, were constrain'd to wait upon the Triumphs of their Conquerors, being dragged along before and behind their Chariot Wheels.

AND so expert, as *Caesar* has taken Notice in his *Commentaries*, were they in their Discipline of these Cars, that the Charioteers rode thro' all the Parts of the Battle, and bestowed their Darts; and usually broke the Ranks of the Enemy, with the terrible Appearance of their Horses, and the Noise of their Iron Wheels. When they had wrought themselves into the Enemies Horse, they were used to fling themselves from their Chariots and fight on foot; at which time the Chariot-Guiders would withdraw a little out of the Battle, and place themselves so, that if their Party were overpower'd, with the Number of the Enemy, they might retreat with more Ease and Security.

BY this Means in their Fighting, they perform'd the Nimbleness of Horse, and the Steadiness of Foot; and by daily Use and Exercise, they

they arriv'd to such Perfection, that in the steepest Descent of a Hill, they could hold their Horses to a full Career, stop of a sudden, turn short, run upon the Pole and Beam of the Chariot, stand upright on the Yoak and Harness of their Steeds, and immediately again whip into their Chariots.

THIS exceeding Nimbleness and Dexterity in the Management of their War-Chariots often times foil'd *Caesar*, and his heavy Legions. For sometimes they would feign themselves to fly, in Order to draw his light Souldiers to follow them, and immediately turning again, and skipping off from their Chariots, they frequently gave the *Romans* the Repulse, driving them to their main Body, where they were forced to shelter themselves. Upon this very Account they never fought thick or in Clusters, but dispers'd themselves into diverse and distant Stations, relieving One Another as they saw Occasion, and retiring, when weary, so came on again as they had refresh'd or reliev'd their Horses.

BY this their scatter'd way of Fighting, the *Romans* knew not which way to bend their main Strength, and besides, being hinder'd on all Sides from making Excursions, they were obliged to close Marches, not able to forage in Parts, but in perpetual Apprehensions of being surpriz'd by a lurking Enemy.

BUT, to return to History, these and other Difficulties concurr'd to make the *Romans* slow in the Reduction of this Island: and had not Factions

CÆSAR, as much as he has magnified himself and his Exploits here, might have never found Leisure, or Resolution, for a Second Landing, had he not been brought over to assist *Mandubracius*, a Prince of the *Trinobantes*, * who had fled to him into *Gaul*, and implor'd his Protection and Succour. And, after such Second Expedition, the *Romans* and *Britons* lived in Peace and Friendship, till, in the Reign of *Claudius* the Emperor, the Inland Parts of our Isle, broken by Civil Wars, and Factions, more than by the Power of the *Romans*, by many imprudent Steps, and after various Turns of Fortune, fell under the Subjection of that Empire. For while particular States singly opposed the common Enemy, they were easily overcome: the rest, being so violently set upon each others Destruction, that, till all were subdued, they remain'd insensible of the Danger, which their intestine Divisions gradually brought them under. While some were for asserting their Native Liberty, and refusing to be Tributaries to *Rome*, Others, too fond of Revenge or Slavery, press'd the Emperor *Claudius* to make an Expedition, and promised him their utmost Assistance.

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this road, (which is a branch of the main road)
The British Government has been ordered to make the
BUT, to return to Hilary, there and other
The British Government has been ordered to make the

THE Emperour, easily perswaded to make himself Master of so warlike a People, came over himself in Person; and on his Departure for Rome, left behind him *A. Plautius* with an Army, who in several Engagements, routed the resisting *Britans*, but with such Loss to himself, that he was oblig'd to send to Rome for a Supply of Forces.

I SHALL pass, from the Exploits of *Plautius*, to the Conduct of *OSTORIUS*, who succeeded him, in the Quality of a *Proprator*, and who was a Man no less experienc'd in Martial Affairs, than his Predecessor.

THIS Lieutenant, at his first Entrance into Command, found himself surrounded with Troubles and Commotions. For that Part of *Britain*, which was not yet subdued, broke in upon their Neighbours, who had enter'd into League with, or made any Submission to the *Romans*, and wast-ed their Fields; pursuing these Inroads with the more Vigour, as they believed the new General's Want of Experience in his Business, and the Season of the Year, for it was then Winter, would both contribute to prevent his revenging their Insolence.

BUT *Ostorius*, knowing that the first Success makes the strongest Impressions of Fear, or Confidence, resolv'd to put a Check to their Incursions betimes, set upon them before they were prepar'd to receive him, and followed those that fled so closely, that, by giving them no Rest, nor Time to rally, he soon found himself able to disarm

disarm such as he suspected might revolt, and by thus harrassing them, and setting proper Garrisons, he reduced the most Southerly Parts of the Island into the Nature of a Province.

BUT Policy, as well as Martial Prowess, was employ'd to make his Conquests the more sure and effectual. To this End, he gave several Cities to one of the *British* Princes, whom he grac'd with the Honorary Title of King; by which Bribe, tho' his Power was to be held of the *Romans*, he was engag'd deeply to the Conquerour's Party, and Interest. It was the Art and Practise of that spreading Republick, to flatter Princes for their own Advantage; and, by a specious Shew of Honour and Respect, make them the Instruments of their Ambition, and the Vassals to their Will.

THESE Proceedings and Artifice of *Ostorius*, were highly resented by some other Princes of Counties, who being powerful, and not yet weaken'd by War, gather'd to a Head, and made a noble Resistance against the *Roman* Lieutenant. But these, after a brave and resolute Dispute, were overthrown: Yet with much greater Struggle and Bloodshed than was imagin'd, since heighten'd by Rage and Despair, they were push'd to attempt Things almost incredible.

BUT neither could the treacherous Revolt of some, nor the absolute Overthrow of others, give *Ostorius* any Leave for Negligence, or to suspend the Prosecution of his Conquests.

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THE *Silures*, (the People inhabiting the Counties of *Radnor*, *Brecknock*, *Monmouth*, *Glamorgan*, and *Hereford*,) now began to grow stubborn and intractable; and were neither to be manag'd by fair Words and Allurements, nor terrified by Threats of the Sword, and most fatal Consequences of an Overthrow. They, besides their natural and inborn Fierceness of Soul, and the Prepossessions of the highest Wrong, in an intended Usurpation on their Liberties, were much exalted with the Opinion they had of the Courage and Conduct of *CARATACUS*, a Prince, who, by many doubtful, and some fortunate Attempts, had raised himself to a greater Reputation in Arms, than any of the *British* Generals.

IT may not be improper here to observe, that this warlike *Briton*, is, severally, call'd by Historians, *Caratacus*, and *Caractacus*, and *Caratac*, and *Caradoc*; the same Person being meant by this Variety of Names and Terminations: And there is a Hill, as * *Mr. Camden* informs us, on the West of *Shropshire*, called **Caer Caradoc**, at this Day scituated among many doubtful Fords, and where the Ruins of a Rampire still remain: Which Place certainly took its Name from *Caratac's* Incampment there, when he stood the *Romans* Fury.

THIS politick Warrior, as *Tacitus* has handed it down to us, knowing himself to be over-

* Inter vada incerta intereminet antiquæ admodum Memoriz Collis, quem *Caer Caradoc* vocant, &c. *Camden* in *Britannia sua*.

match'd in Strength, knew likewise that his Advantage must lie in the Choice of his Ground, and in Places that were fittest for Ambush. He therefore transferr'd the Seat of War to the Country of the *Ordovices*, or *North-Wales*, a Region full of narrow Passes, Rocky and Mountainous, and easy tenable by a Few : Drawing to his Party all that were ill-affected to the *Roman Alliance*, he resolves to try his Fate to the utmost : *Ostorius*, with equal Alacrity pursues him, and finds him drawn up, and resolutely prepar'd for Battle.

AS the Place, chosen for the Engagement, was strangely fortified both by Art and Nature, all the Accesses full of Difficulties to the *Romans*, and of no less Security to the *Britons* : So the Spirits of both Parties were fired with equal Ardor and Hopes ; the *Britons* confiding to preserve their Liberties, and the *Romans* aspiring to conquer them at all Disadvantages.

CARADOC rode up, and down among his Troops, and put them in Mind, that this was the Day, and the Engagement, which would either begin their Liberty or their eternal Bondage : reciting the Names of their gallant Ancestors, who had drove *Cesar* the Dictator out of *Britain* ; whose Valour hitherto had preserved them from Slavery and Taxes, and their Wives and Children from Dishonour. The Soldiers inflam'd with these Considerations, and doubly animated by their Prince's Speeches, bound themselves by Vows, and solemn Imprecations, that neither Wounds, nor Weapons, should make them yield. And the *Roman Army*, tho' amaz'd at the Resoluteness of their Adversaries, tho' they

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they had an unforded River to cross, and a Ridge of steep Mountains in their Way, every Thing that was terrible and difficult against them, still clamour'd to be led on, saying, *Nothing was impregnable to Valour.*

THEY came to Battle, and after a sharp and bloody Dispute on both Sides, the *Britans*, at length, no longer able to endure the close Fight, and pressing of the *Roman* Legions, flung down their Arms, and betook themselves to a disorderly Flight.

THIS Victory was rendered famous by two Noble Captives taken, the Wife and Daughter of *Caradoc*: It had been well if this Prince's Misfortunes had ended here; for his two Brothers, after his Overthrow, revolted to the *Romans*; and He himself, as Adversity is seldom safe, having escaped the Pursuit, and fled to the Protection of *CARTISMANDUA*, Queen of the *Bri-gantes* †, was most basely deliver'd up by Her, and sent in Irons to the Conqueror.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Misfortunes of *Caradoc* fell thick, his Fame spread thro' the Island, and reaching the adjacent Provinces, was celebrated in *Italy* it self. All coveted the Sight of that Man, who for so many Years had contemned the *Roman* Forces; inso-much, that even in *Rome*, his Name was held in Veneration: and the Emperor, while, he extoll'd his own, made the Captive's Glory there

† These were the Inhabitants of *York-shire*, *Lancashire*, *Durham*, *Westmorland*, and *Cumberland*.

the greater. The People of *Rome* were summoned as to the Sight of some Publick Games and Spectacles; the Emperor's Guards were placed in Order, and he himself seated on his Tribunal; the Captive Prince's Vassals and Retinue going first, seem'd, by their rueful Countenances, to discover the Sense of their Calamity. The Caparisons, his Chains, and other Spoils, gotten in the Wars, were carried after them; then his Brethren, Wife and Daughter followed, and, last of all, *Caradoc*, himself; whose Attire and stout Behaviour fill'd the People's Eyes with Wonder and Delight: His Body, as our learned Antiquary, *SPEED*, informs us, was, for the most part, *naked*, and *painted* with the Figures of divers Beasts: Neither was his Behaviour less noted than the Strangeness of his Habit; for, he neither hung down his Head, as daunted with base Fear, nor craved Mercy, as the inferiour Captives did; but, with a Confident Spirit, and Bold Countenance, held on, till he came before the Imperial Seat: Where, making his Stand, and a while surveying the Pomp and Majesty of his Conqueror, with great Courage, or, as *CAMDEN* finely distinguishes it, *Non degenerere Prece, sed generosa loquendi Libertate*, he address'd the Emperor in the following Manner.

“ I F my Moderation in Prosperity had been
 “ answerable to the Greatness of my Birth and
 “ Estate; or the Success of my late Attempts,
 “ to the Resolution of my Mind, I might have
 “ come to this City, rather as a Friend, to be
 “ entertain'd, than as a Captive, to be gaz'd
 “ upon; neither would you disdain to have re-
 “ ceiv'd

" ceiv'd me on Terms of Amity and Peace, be-
 " ing a Man of Royal Descent, and a Comman-
 " der of many Warlike Nations. But what
 " Cloud soever has darken'd my present Lot,
 " yet have the Heavens and Nature given me
 " that in Birth and Mind, which none can Van-
 " quish or Deprive me of. I well see that you
 " make other Men's Miseries, the Subject and
 " Matter of your Triumphs; and, in this my
 " Calamity, as in a Mirror, you now contem-
 " plate your own Glory: Yet know, that I am,
 " and was a Prince, furnish'd with Strength of
 " Men, and all the Requisites of War; and
 " what Marvel is it, if all be lost, seeing Ex-
 " perience teaches that the Events of War are
 " variable, and the Success of Policies guided by
 " uncertain Fates? As it is with me-----who
 " thought that the deep Waters, like a Wall,
 " enclosing our Land, and It so situated by Hea-
 " venly Providence, as in another World,
 " might have been a sufficient Privilege and De-
 " fence for us, against foreign Invasions: But
 " I now perceive that the Desire of Sovereign-
 " ty admits no Limitation; and if you *Romans*
 " must command all, then all must obey. For
 " my own Part, while I was able I made Re-
 " sistance, and unwilling I was to submit my
 " Neck to a servile Yoak; so far the Law of
 " Nature allows every Man, that he may de-
 " fend himself being assail'd, and to withstand
 " Force by Force. Had I at first yielded, thy
 " Glory and my Ruin had not been so re-
 " nown'd: Fortune has now done her worst;
 " we have nothing left us but our Lives, which
 " if you take from us, our Miseries end; and
 " if

“ if you spare us, we are but the Objects of your
“ Clemency.

CÆSAR wond’ring to see such daring Resolutions, and so free a Mind, in a Captive Estate, pardon’d *Caradoc*, his Wife, and Family, and order’d their Chains forthwith to be struck off. This Conquest and Triumph over *Caradoc*, minister’d Matter of Discourse and Admiration throughout all *Rome*; Nay, so lavish were the Lords of the Senate in their Praises of this Victory, that they declar’d it to equal that of *P. Scipio*, when he triumph’d over *Syphax* the *Numidian*; or that of *Perses*, whom *Paulus Æmilius* had vanquish’d; or that of any other King, who had been taken in War, or exhibited to the View of the People.

HOW much the *Romans* prided themselves in these Victories over *Britain*, is obvious to every Reader of their History, or of their Poets. *Juvenal*, I remember, particularly, when he had a mind to banter *Domitian*, on having a Turbat of such prodigious size sent him, that all the Emperor’s Scullery had not a Dish large enough to hold it, archly insinuated that the Fish was not only in it self a Prodigy, but an Omen of some illustrious Victory that should crown that Prince; and then he adds, as the highest Piece of Renown the Emperor could wish for, or expect,

*Regem aliquem capies, aut de Temone Britanno
Excidet Arviragus.*

Some

Some Captive King, thee his new Lord shall
 own ;
 Or, from his *British* Chariot headlong thrown,
 The Proud *Arviragus* come tumbling down.

CLAUDIUS to shew his Gratitude to the Merits of his General, had triumphal Honours publicly decreed for *Ostorius*, whose Fortunes, until then, had been very prosperous ; but now began to be doubtful, or rather decline : Either because *Caradoc*, the Foil of his Glory, was remov'd ; and, thereupon, as tho' all had been subdu'd, a more careless Service were to be entertain'd ; or else, because the Courage of the *Britons* was more inflam'd to Revenge, thro' their fervent Compassion and Sorrow for the Fall of so mighty a King.

THO' it may break a little into the Series and Sequel of our Story, I hope the Digression will not be judg'd very foreign, if I here make one more Remark, concerning that great Man, whose Fall and Captivity have been the Subject of my Foregoing Pages. It will not be difficult to conceive what an high Opinion our Predecessors (as well as the *Romans*, who had the Fortune to conquer him) entertain'd of this *British* Prince's Virtues and Character ; If we but remember, that two of our Celebrated Poets, *BEAUMONT* and *FLETCHER*, have ventur'd not only to err against Chronology, but make a real Falsification in History, to embellish their Tragedy of *BONDUCA*, with the Character, and Appearance of *CARADOC*. I had scarce thought it of Moment to mention this,
 but

but that, in Stories relating to the Affairs of our own Country, some Readers expect the Exactness and Fidelity of an Historian, in the Compositions of a Dramatic Poet; and rigorously think, that he is not to contradict any known Points of Action.

BUT the Liberty of the Stage gives a very ample Allowance, some Contradictions in Fact, are pardon'd, if they are done to introduce a Beauty that is more than an Equivalent for deviating from Truth in the Strictness of Circumstances. Mr. ADDISON was very sensible such a License might be taken; and therefore made no Scruple, in his CATO, to introduce the pleasing Character of *Juba*, as a Lover, contrary to the whole Tenor and Concurrence of History; since that Prince was a Boy, and, as near as I remember, under ten Years of Age, at the Time when *Cato* kill'd himself. But to resume the Thread of our History;

AFTER *Caradoc* had been thus treacherously surrender'd by *Cartismandua*, and spent the Remainder of his Days in *Rome*, in Obedience and Fidelity to the Emperor who so generously gave him his Life, there was no Name in the whole Island of *Britain* that sounded so equal to his, for a Martial Prowess and Valour, as that of *VENUTIUS*, or *VANOC*, as some of our Historians, and as his own Coins stile him.

THIS Prince is represented to be, by Nature, fierce and intrepid; an Inveterate, but a Gallant Foe; In his Inclinations he may have seem'd to imitate the Carthaginian *HANNIBAL*,
for

for he is recorded to have been a most mortal Hater even of the Name of a *Roman*: But Love, and other Accidents in Life, often turn us from the very innate Principles of our Souls, and make it hard to reconcile our Actions to the Notions Men entertain of our Characters: For the Austerity of this Warrior, and the strong Odium which he cherished against the Invaders of his Country, were all sunk in the Passion which he had for the Treacherous *Cartismandua*. Ambition, and the Interest of aggrandizing himself by the Addition of her Dominions, were too powerful for his own Honour and Reputation, and persuaded him to marry her, as *Shakespear* finely says on another Occasion, *With all her Imperfections on her Head*. Integrity was not the only Point in which she differed from him; for she was a constant Favourer of the *Roman* Interest, to the Prejudice of the Liberties of the People she commanded. And to shew how a gallant Man may be aler'd from the Insinuations of a subtil Woman in his Bosom, to oblige her, to whom he had already sacrific'd the concern of his Fame, he not only let drop his Hatred to the *Romans*, but totally clos'd with them, and submitted to become their faithful Ally.

BUT tho' this great Man was thus brought over to an Amity with the Conquerors, Losses follow'd thick upon each others Necks, on the Side of the *Romans*. The *Silures*, in their Repentments for their beloved *Caradoc*, encompass'd them about, and, if Succour had not speedily arriv'd from the neighbouring Towns and Garrisons, there had not a Man of them escap'd the Slaughter: And the Provocations of these People

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were heighthen'd against the *Roman* Forces, from having heard that *Ostorius* had given out, that he would root out the very Name of their Nation; a Saying they could never be brought to forget, and tho' often courted to Terms of Friendship and Compliance, they, for the future, look'd upon the *Romans*, not only as their Enemies, but the Haters of their Country. And, in this Heat, as Men desperate, (whose Destinies were read, and Lots cast already) they intercepted the scatter'd Troops of the *Romans*, that unwarily wasted and spoil'd the Country, taking many of them Prisoners, and recovering rich Booty, which they sent and distributed amongst their Neighbours; by the Incitement of which, many other Counties were drawn to join 'em in their Revolt.

THESE Proceedings sat so near *Ostorius's* Heart, that tir'd out with so vexatious an Enemy, his Spirits wearied with long Care and Travels, and the Strength of his Body, to which may be added the Discontentment of his Mind, and his being sensible how he lost daily in his Reputation, he died for very Anguish and Grief: not living to see those Triumphal Honours paid him, which, as we have before observ'd, were publickly decreed him for his Services. The Exasperations of a People, in themselves not very tractable, made the *Britons* triumph, that, tho' no particular Fight, yet the adverse Fortune of the War, had taken off so considerable and victorious a Commander.

CLAUDIUS, receiving Intelligence at *Rome* of his Lieutenant's Death, immediately chuses

chuses *Aulus Didius* to succeed him ; with Orders for him to hasten forthwith to his Command ; the Affairs of *Britain* being in that wavering Condition, that they wanted the immediate Presence of their Governor. His Voyage to *Britain* was quick and successful ; but yet he came not so soon thither, but that before his arrival, a Legion under *Manlius Valens* met with an unlucky and disastrous Fight. The Occasion of this Misfortune was as follows. *CARTISMANDUA*, who had improv'd her Interest with the *Romans*, by her treacherous surrendring of *Caradoc*, that depended on her Protection, grew now into an Open Contempt of her Husband *Varoc* ; who, provok'd by the Injuries of her Falshood, took up Arms against the Encroachments of her Power, as likewise against the *Romans*, who were mean enough to abet her in her Insolence.

THE Afflictions which he felt from this bad Woman's Usage seem to have been a just Punishment on his Levity and Imprudence, in taking one to his Embraces who had so infamously betray'd a Prince allied to him in Blood, and the Memory of whose Fame and Virtues were so dear to their native Country : So that *Venutius* was now reduc'd to the Condition, which *Claudius* once, in his Wine, express'd to be his own Case ; that it was fatal to him, first to bear the Lewdness of his Wife, and then to punish it.

THERE can nothing be said to the Advantage of *Cartismandua*, but what she ow'd to Chance and her Ancestors ; the Nobility of her Birth and Descent. Her Spirit indeed was high, but her Inclinations mean ; and no Notions, or

Restraints of Honour, kept her from complying with her Luxuries and Passions. Her Wit was debas'd into disingenuous Cunning; and the whole Bent and Tenour of her Thoughts employ'd to humour, and promote the Vices of her Nature. 'Tis observ'd, that when Women once fall from Virtue, they maintain no Bounds or Degree of Discretion, in their Decline into Lewdness. She, whose tow'ring Pride, heighten'd by abounding Wealth, Peace, and the flattering Interest of the *Romans*, could think a Prince too mean to deserve her Embraces, was not too proud to grant the greatest Intimacies to his very *Armour-Bearer*, *VELOCATUS* or *VELOCAD*; for whose licentious Conversation she forsook the Bed of her endearing Husband, and attempted to plant her Favourite Paramour in the Throne, as she had already secur'd to him the Possession of her Person.

WHILE these Commotions were heighthening in *Britain*, *CLAUDIUS*, *ÆSAR* dies at *Rome*, and *NERO* succeeds him in that Empire. Never were two Great Men more unfortunate in the Scandal and Villany of their Wives, than *Claudius* and our *British Hero*: For at the very Instant that *Cartismandua* was practising on the Life and Power of *Venutius*, *Agrippina* was successful against her Husband; and dispatch'd him with poison'd Mushrooms, the Diet in which he always most delighted, and was most intemperate.

NERO was idle and dissolute in his Nature, and little anxious of preserving distant Conquests to the Empire, yet he continu'd *Darius* in his Em-

Employment; tho' he afterwards was minded to withdraw all his Forces from *Britain*, and dismantle the Country: But Shame deterr'd him from this rash Conduct, and a Fear, lest he should seem to dislike the Counsels of *Claudius*, which, at that Time, were very Popular in *Rome*.

DIDIVS was well stricken in Years, and therefore better fitted for the Quietness of Affairs, at the Juncture he was sent, which requir'd rather a Cautious, than an Active, Commander. But he had not been long employ'd in preventing the Incursions of the *Silures*, in securing what his Predecessors in that Province had gain'd, and in building here and there a few Garrisons higher in the Country, before there broke out a Dissention among the *Britons*, which continu'd for many Years, and lasted down to the Days of *Vespasian*.

THE Cause and Ground of this long-winded Contention (tho' the Quarrel was exercis'd for some time only among the *Britons*) was the strange and unaccountable Disloyalty of *Cartimandua* to her Husband *Venerius*; a Man, that in every Degree of Character was worthy of her strictest Faith, and most tender and inviolable Affection. 'Tis certain, the great Renown of *Venerius* throughout the Isle, and the uncommon Esteem that was paid him by the *Romans*, when he condescended to accept of their Friendship, made the Bruit of this unnatural Disaffection in his Wife very publick and popular; and the more generally his Injuries were spread and diffus'd thro' the Realm, the more Surprize and Indig-

Indignation arose in the Hearts of the resenting Britons. CARTISMANDUA, certainly, by this vile Revolt, not only committed the highest Outrage against her Lord's Merits, but wounded and belied the Reputation of her Country, and that Simplicity of manners which the *Grecian* Writers in general were pleas'd to allow the Britons. SOLINUS, speaking of the People of our old Isle, displays 'em to be of a gentle and kind Disposition, of a fair and honest Behaviour, simple and sincere in their Conversation. And DIODORUS SICULUS, a very competent Judge of the Subjects which he took in Hand, says, that the Britons had not the Craft and Subtilty of other Nations, but were a fair condition'd People, of a plain and upright Dealing.

AND this infamous Lady, as she deviated so much from the reported and allow'd Manners of our Country, so neither can she be bore out, or excus'd, from any Customs then in Vogue, to give a Warrant and Sanction to her Infidelity. 'Tis true, indeed, and so *Cæsar* tells us, that the Britons had all things in Common among 'em, and would not admit of any Propriety at all; after the Manner of the *Germans*, from whom, in all probability, they descended. In so much, that the same Author reports, that ten or twelve of them agreed together in the promiscuous Use of one Woman, Brethren with Brethren, nay, Parents with their own Children. And the Issue they had by 'em were brought up by a common Stock, tho' they were reputed his, in a more especial Manner, who married the Mother in her Virginity.

'TIS certain that this incestuous Custom was frequent among the *Athenians*, before the Days of *Cecrops*, as Mr. SELDEN has noted; and tho' it obtain'd here in *Britain*, we are at Liberty to suppose it was only us'd by the wilder sort of the Inhabitants: Such of them, who, like the old *Scythians*, went naked and did servile Offices; wander'd up and down the Country, without any fix'd Abode; or, at best, had but a Hut of Clay and Wicker, for their Reception. When they came to acknowledge and be subject to Princes, to whose Character and Virtue they paid the strictest Veneration, we must, with Reason, exempt those of that high Rank, from this promiscuous Custom, which would have level'd them in Opinion with the rudest *Briton*. Or had the Fashion prevail'd even among the *Grandees*, it still appears to us establish'd on such Terms, that *Cartismandua* could have no Plea from it, for her ungenerous Disloyalty: For where this promiscuous Use of Wives was, the same was by Agreement, between all the Parties that embrac'd the same Woman; which we are sure was not the Case of *Venutius*; for, had he condescended to have made his Armour-Bearer a Partner in his Happiness, he had not entertain'd any Sentiments of Revenge, or prosecuted a War against his Wife and her Paramour.

I T has besides been already observ'd, that *Cartismandua* was a Woman of great innate Pride and Haughtiness; so that her descending from the Arms of a Prince, who tenderly lov'd her, to those of his Servant, whose Passion was

at best grounded either on the Fear of disabling her, the satisfying his base Desires, or the Hopes of raising himself to Power by her Interest, was a flagrant Contradiction of that becoming Pride which sway'd her Masculine Spirit, and used to exert it self on other Occasions. And we have some Reason to believe, that the *British* Ladies of that Age valued themselves on not sully'ing their Reputations, by too servile a Condescension. We have one Story in particular on Record, which stands as a Testimony of their Caution in this Respect; the unusual Custom of their promiscuous Marriages was, it seems, much taken Notice of in *Rome*; and *Julia* the Wife of the Emperor *Severus*, who lived at no great Distance of Time from *Carrismandua*, highly reproach'd a *British* Lady with it at Court, as a Custom infamous in the Women, as well as barbarous in the Men; to whom the Lady, having made some Discoveries in Intrigue among the *Romans*, briskly replied, *We do that openly with the best of our Men, which you do privately with the worst of yours.* But this was far from being *Carrismandua's* Case; she trusted neither the Sun, nor her Husband, with the Scheme of her Amour; Her Intrigue was secret, as it was infamous; She was conscious that the Embraces, which she stole, were disreputable; and never let the *Britons* have an Eye on them, till Custom had so harden'd her in Vice, that she publicly avow'd her Contempt for her Husband, and her Passion for his Slave. But as Wickedness always propagates when we grow above the Fear of Censure, and despise the Remarks of an observing World, *Carrismandua* broke out into a Train of Enormities; she at once forsakes

Venutim

Peritius his Bed, and the royal Palace; steals away with her servile Lover to a secure Retreat; and then, strengthening her self with the Abettors of her Faction, practises on the Throne and Life of her Husband.

I HAVE taken Notice that this lewd, but Imperial Woman, by her Disloyalty in Marriage, not only acted discordant to the Manners of that Age, when Vertue and Simplicity (if ever) were in Fashion; but brought a Reproach on the People whom she commanded; and, I hope, it will not be thought foreign to my Subject, if I consider too, how far she transgressed against the Veneration of the Religion, which they then solemnly practiced in *Britain*.

THE Worship of those Times, 'tis true, was *heathenish*, but it was grave and awful, full of Superstition, and a Pomp of Ceremonies. To enumerate in particular the Gods whom they adored, is not the work of these Sheets; Our Historians and Antiquaries are all express, and copious, upon the Subject. They were not a little devoted to Magick, nor less addicted to inspecting the Entrails of Beasts, and sometimes of Men too; for they honour'd the Altars of their Gods, with the Sacrifice and Blood of such as they took Captive in the War. How far they stept into Superstition is plain from this, that the DRUIDS, of whom I shall have Occasion to speak a short Word, held an Opinion, that the Life of a Man, either in a desperate Sickness, or Danger of War, could not be secured unless another suffer'd in his Stead; so
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that in such Cases they either offer'd Men in Sacrifice, or else vow'd so to do after their Delivery. But the most acceptable Victims to their Gods they esteem'd Murtherers, Thieves, Robbers, and other flagrant Criminals; not but that, however, where these were wanting, the Blood of Innocents stain'd their Altars.

I SHALL only take Notice, that they had one Deity in particular call'd *Andraſte* or *Adraſte*, for so by some it is read, whom they reputed the Goddess of Victory, and whom the British Amazon *Boadicea* paid her Devotion to, after her signal Conquest over the Romans, in which she destroy'd fourscore thousand of them. This Idol, 'tis probable, they borrow'd from the Phœnicians, who worshiped *Venus arm'd*, and esteem'd her the Goddess of War. As the Romans too had a Temple in Honour of *Venus Victrix*, or the Conqueror. Our Britains also had a pompous Temple to this *Adraſte*, a Deity whom they held in the highest Veneration, and to whom they likewise sacrific'd on their Altars, erected in thick and hallow'd Groves. From the Devotion paid to her it is not improbable, but they might learn the savage and horrid Manner of sacrificing Prisoners alive, during which Ceremony they spent the Time in Feasts and Banquets. But, perhaps, I am running this Point of Antiquity into too great a Length, and it is time now that I should take the Notice which I designed of their DRUIDS.

I SHALL pass over their particular Austerity in Habit and Manner of living, and proceed to inform the Reader that they were a sort of

of Men much celebrated in those Times, that they were the Priests and Instructors in all religious Matters, had the Management of all Sacrifices, were Interpreters of all Mysteries, and had the Education of the better sort assign'd to them. By means of their great and allow'd Learning, the Innocence and Simplicity of their Conduct and Behaviour, and through long Custom, the strongest of Prepossessions, the People had them in such sacred Regard, that they were not only the Priests, but the Judges too, throughout the Nation: for generally they approv'd of all Laws, determin'd all Controversies, and appointed Rewards and Punishments at Discretion; the People believing that none were oblig'd to submit to any Punishment, unless inflicted by a divine Authority.

IN a Word, of such Veneration were these *Druids*, that if any refus'd to obey their Decree, they were forbidden to be present at the solemn Sacrifices; a Sentence that was accounted the most grievous Punishment, as it was the highest Reproach and Scandal: And those, thus excommunicated, were reckon'd the most profligate of Mankind; all Persons avoided their Conversation, as the Pest of the Nation; they were utterly excluded the Benefit of the Law, and were render'd incapable of all Honours and Dignities. It was they, who sacrific'd Men as well as Beasts, and the absolute Power rested in their Hands, to determine what Person was fittest for that Purpose, and whose Blood would be most acceptable to the Gods; which, no doubt, commanded such an Awe on their Persons,

sons, as due Obedience was paid to all their Commands.

IT does not seem a little strange, at this Distance of Time, that *Cartismandua*, who had brought her self to overlook the Regards of Infamy and Censure, should presume to pay as little Reverence to those of Religion, and the Priests, then in so high Authority. Nor is it less surprizing, that when these *Druids* had such an unrestrain'd and personal Power, *Venutius* should confine himself to the Revenge of Arms alone, and not draw down the Thunder of Church-Correction upon her. For had these Priests interpos'd in their Prince's Quarrel, had they declar'd her profligate and excommunicate, what Party, tho' of her most favour'd Subjects, would have dar'd to second her in her Disloyalty, and abet the Usurpation of her Paramour against her Husband's Title? It is equally amazing that the *Romans* too, who were as strongly addicted to Superstition as the others, and who were fully acquainted with the Power of the *Druids* from their Conquests in *Gaul*, should assist the Faction of a flagitious Woman (as I shall hereafter have Occasion to take Notice they did) who was neither protected by Custom, nor Religion, but acted in a daring Defiance to both.

VENUTIUS, as we have already hinted, deeply affected with the open Injury and Scandal of his Wife, was not sparing in his Proclamations of her Infamy. But making her Shame a Handle for the promoting of his Revenge, rais'd a considerable Force against her and her Lover,
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and began to pursue her with all the Extremities of War.

ALL our Histories are silent what Figure *Vellacid* made, or what Part he ventur'd to act, when an injur'd Master's Resentments were alarm'd, and pushing him from his Retreat and Security. As he does not appear to have signaliz'd himself in any Action, or put himself upon the open Defence of her Crimes, which were at once his greatest Honour and Reproach; we are left at Liberty to believe, that either Conscience hinder'd him from becoming her Champion, or that *Cartismandua's* Policy thought it might give Offence to her Party, if she had trusted one of his mean Descent and Quality with the Command of her Army, as she must have done, and he would have expected, whom she had already honour'd with her Embraces. Not that it appears she was so strongly ty'd by these Political Regards, since if she did not make him her General, 'tis certain, she design'd to make him a King over her People.

IT is observ'd, and particularly by our learned *CAMDEN*, who copies it from *Tactus*, to the great Honour of the *Britons*, that the Good Will of the whole Country was on *Venusius's* Side; but on hers, and the Adulterer's, only her Lewdness, Treachery, and Deceit. *Pro Marito, Studia Civitatis; pro Adultero, Libido Regina & Sevitia*. One would have thought this was a very unequal Match; and yet the Quarrel was disputed for a long while on both Sides: For *Cartismandua*, by usual Arts and Practices, had train'd, and got into her Possession, the Brother, and near Relations of *Venusius*; a Policy,

Policy, which for some Time strengthen'd her Party, having so many of the Royal Family at her Disposal.

THE People, who knew well the Cruelty of her Nature, were not a little apprehensive of its Consequences. And the Love and Veneration, which they had for their Prince *Venutius*, made 'em begin to fear for the Fate of his Family, who were unfortunately fallen into her Snares. They were jealous likewise of being brought under the uncomely Subjection of a Woman, whose Crimes and Infamy had made 'em forget to love her; they therefore, as the Male Issue of the Crown was extinct, unanimously declar'd in favour of *Venutius*, and for the Liberty of his Brothers and Relations.

WITH these Assistances, and the Declaration of the whole Country in his Favour, *Venutius* follow'd his Resentments with a double Alacrity. He gave his Adulteress no Time to rest, or fortify herself against his Attacks. He drove her from all her strong Holds, reduc'd her to Extremity, and Want of Subsistence for her Forces; and now there seem'd nothing that could hinder the Punishment of her Injuries to him, but the Interposition of the *Romans* to protect her.

KENUTIUS, who had the Hearts of the People so much at his Service, did not want the earliest Intelligence from his faithful Scouts, what Posture of Defence the Affairs of *Cartismandua* from Time to Time were in, or what new Assistances she drew over to her. His own Sagacity soon furnish'd him with Suspicions, how far the

the *Romans* might interest themselves in her Quarrel; for, remembring well the Obligations her Treachery had done 'em, in delivering up the noble *Caradoc*, who was so great a Glory to *Claudius* his Triumph, he kept a vigilant and jealous Eye over all their Motions. He presently understood that she dispatch'd frequent Couriers to *DIDIUS*, the then Lieutenant, and he found the *Romans* were no less backward in holding a secret Correspondence with her. Tho' they seem'd at first to dissemble their Sentiments upon the Matter, and defer the publick owning of her Cause, which, 'twas plain, was only a Feint of Policy, till they could receive greater Strength, to give her that Assistance which she requir'd. *Venutius* easily foresaw that it was of Moment to prevent and countermine their unripen'd Schemes; and therefore, without any formal Declaration, he draw'd up his Forces, and set furiously on those Cohorts of the *Romans* who were already assembl'd, and at the first Charge, made a great Slaughter of them. The *Romans*, on their Part, alarm'd and suspicious of the *British* Prince's Motions, order'd a Legion to march and join their other Troops, under the Conduct of *Cassius Nasica*: For *Didius* was now old and disabl'd, and did every thing by his Deputies. *Venutius*, who had the Advantage of knowing all the Roads, resolv'd to be before-hand with this intended Reinforcement; and, intercepting them in their March, set upon them with Vigour and Fury; and, with the like Success, gave 'em the Rout.

CARTISMANDUA, disappointed of her expected Succours, was now reduc'd to the greatest Extremities; and center'd the very utmost
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of her Hopes in the Prospect of securing her Person by Escape. To make this the more sure, she again solicits the *Romans* for a Body-Guard; which being granted to her, they, thro' many Skirmishes, and great Difficulties, got up to her Quarters, and rescu'd her from falling into her Husband's Hands. But the Kingdom continu'd to *Venutius*, and the War was left for the *Romans* to manage.

DURING all these Encounters, we have no Information whether the ignoble *Velocad* was made a Prisoner to the injur'd Husband, whether he fell in the Battle a just Sacrifice to his Rage, or whether he surviv'd to know the Losses and Distresses of *Cartismandua*. It's probable it had been transmitted to us, if the Bravery of his Death had in any kind atton'd for the Baseness, and Ingratitude, into which he was drawn by the Queen's Allurements. But as Cowardice is generally the Attendant on wicked Actions, it is more likely that he in Obscurity waited the Success of the Queen's Arms, and died in his Retreat and Disappointment, when he found the Justice of her Husband's Cause prevail'd.

CARTISMANDUA, Heart-sick at her own Losses, and at the repeated Success of *Venutius* against her; and finding likewise that the *Romans* began to be slack, in sending her a sufficient Assistance, dropt all Resolution of carrying on the War; and, as *Tacitus* informs us, was content to throw her self under the *Roman* Protection. Here, no doubt, she tried all her Arts and Female Cunning, to spirit them up once again to declare themselves in her Interest. Her
Pride

Pride could ill brook to be dispossest'd of a Kingdom, to become a Dependant, and be only shelter'd in those Dominions, which she might have sway'd in the highest Veneration, and Extent of Power.

BUT all Intinuations, all Applications for Aid, and a Renewal of the War, were urg'd in vain. The *Romans*, either could not, or were resolv'd not to engage too deeply in her Quarrel. Besides, it is to be more than conjectur'd, that they yielded to *Venturius* the quiet Possession of the Kingdom: and would never have molested him in his Title, could he but have forgotten that sensible Injury of their interpoling their Authority in his Domestick Affairs, the maintaining the Rebellion of an infamous Adulteress, and the open Protecting of her in her Crimes against Him.

IF the *Romans* did not act with all the Generosity, that may deserve the Praise of a virtuous People, they proceeded with a Policy not much unwarrantable in a Country which they had conquer'd, and where they were not to suffer a Prince to grow strong enough to shake off the Yoak of their Power. To this End, without Question, at first they sided with the Faction of *Carrismandua*: and not as they thought the Cause of their Quarrel just, but as the Virtues of *Venturius*, and the Love of the People towards him, made his Party so strong, that they fear'd he would assert the Liberty of his Country, and free the *Britons* from the Load of Tribute by a successful Rebellion,

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BUT when by Fatigues, and repeated Skirmishes, they had weakned his Forces so as to make him willing to embrace an honourable Accommodation, they then began to make him some Atonement, by no longer encouraging the Infamy and Insolence of his disloyal Queen. From this Period began the abandon'd *Carissimandua* to find the just Reward of her Treasons: to find her self destitute of the Favour, and Assistance, of Those, whom she believ'd she had eternally attach'd to her at the Price of the highest Dishonour on her Part: hated even to Death by the *Britons*, whom she had betray'd; and despis'd for her Treachery by those very *Romans*, who had reap'd the Benefit of It.

FINIS.

